

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5449  
ANSWERED ON:28.04.2003  
AMENDMENT TO CRZ RULES  
T. GOVINDAN

**Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government have decided to make certain amendments in Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any suggestions/requests from public, environmentalists and State Governments have been invited and received during the last three years and the current year till date;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (e) the action taken by the Government on each such requests/suggestions?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JU DEV)

(a), (b), (c), (d) & (e): During the last three years the Government have received several suggestions from the Governments of Coastal States/Union Territories, environmentalists and others for amending the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification, 1991 which inter-alia included harvesting of salt by solar evaporation in inter-tidal areas, mining of limestone within CRZ area in Gujarat, relaxation of CRZ for taking up development of housing projects in Maharashtra, relaxation for developing coastal tourism projects in Goa, reduction of CRZ for constructing dwelling units along backwaters of Kerala, mining of sand in CRZ areas in Andaman & Nicobar (A&N) Islands and reduction of CRZ for the islands of A&N.

After taking into consideration the above suggestions, the Government had issued amendments to CRZ Notification, 1991 which inter-alia, provide for mining of sand in the CRZ area in Andaman & Nicobar Islands on year-to-year basis, storage and regasification of Liquefied Natural Gas in CRZ areas and exploration of oil and natural gas in intertidal area.

A draft Notification inviting objections/suggestions from the public was issued vide SO No. 51(E) on 11.1.2002 which inter-alia provided for (i) reduction in CRZ area upto 50 meters or width of the rivers, creeks or backwaters whichever is less for specified stretches to permit construction of dwelling units for local inhabitants subject to certain conditions, (ii) permitting construction of housing schemes of State Urban Development Authorities which were commenced prior to 19.02.1991 in CRZ II areas (iii) doing away with 'No Development Zone' in the notified Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and within existing notified port limits, (iv) permitting dwelling units and infrastructure facilities for the local inhabitants within CRZ III areas subject to certain conditions and (v) salt harvesting by solar evaporation in intertidal areas. The Notification was finalized on 21st May, 2002 taking into account various suggestions/objections received.